

THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

The Problem in the Galatian Churches

1:6-9

3:1-5

4:8-20

5:2-12

6:12-15

I. Greeting 1:1-5

II. Paul Defends The Gospel Personally 1:6 - 2:21

A. Paul Confronts the Acceptance of a False Gospel 1:6-10

1. The Galatians are turning to a false gospel 1:6,7a
2. Teachers who pervert the gospel should be eternally cursed 1:7b-9
3. Paul is concerned to please God, not men 1:10

B. Paul Defends the Source of His Gospel 1:11-24

1. From Christ, not men 1:11,12
2. Did not consult any man, including the apostles 1:13-17
3. Three years before he met with any apostles 1:18-24

- C. Paul Defends the Confirmation of His Gospel 2:1-14
 - 1. At Jerusalem 2:1-10
 - a. Titus was not compelled to be circumcised
 - b. Paul did not give in to false brothers
 - c. The leaders added nothing to my message
 - d. The leaders recognized I had been entrusted with preaching the gospel to the Gentiles
 - e. James, Peter and John gave us the right hand of fellowship
 - f. James, Peter and John only asked that Paul remember the poor
 - 2. At Antioch
 - a. The hypocrisy of Peter and others 2:11-13
 - b. The confrontation by Paul 2:14
- D. Paul Asserts the Content of the Gospel as Known by “We Jews” 2:15-21
 - 1. We are not justified by observing the law
 - 2. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ

III. Paul Defends The Content Of The Gospel 3:1 - 4:31

- A. Question: How Did You Receive the Spirit 3:1-5
 - 1. Not by observing the law
 - 2. By believing the word
 - 3. After beginning in the Spirit, can you attain your goal by human effort?

B. The Example of Abraham 3:6-18

1. Because Abraham believed God 3:6-9
 - a. He was credited with righteousness
 - b. Those who believe are children of Abraham
 - c. God announced the gospel in advance to Abraham
 - d. Those who believe are blessed along with Abraham

2. The curse of the law 3:10-14
 - a. All who rely on observing the law are under a curse
 - b. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law
 - (1) by becoming a curse for us
 - (2) so the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles
 - (3) so that by faith we can receive the Spirit

3. The promise to Abraham and his Seed 3:15-18
 - a. The promise was made to Abraham and his singular Seed, Jesus
 - b. The promise was made 430 years before the law was given

C. The Purpose of the Law 3:19-25

1. The law was given because of transgressions until the Seed had come
2. The law is not opposed to the promises of God
3. The law could not impart life or righteousness
4. The law held all men as prisoners of sin
5. The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ
6. Now that faith has come we are no longer under the supervision of the law

- D. We are Sons, not Slaves 3:26 - 4:31
 - 1. We are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus 3:26-29
 - 2. We have gone from slavery to full sonship 4:1-11
 - a. We were in slavery 4:1-3,8
 - b. Christ has given us full sonship 4:4-7
 - c. Do not turn back to slavery 4:9-11
 - 3. Parenthesis: Paul's plea contrasted with the efforts of the false teachers 4:12-20
 - a. Paul's plea 4:12-16
 - b. Paul's assessment of the efforts of the false teachers 4:17-20
 - 4. The illustration of Hagar and Sarah 4:21-31
 - a. Hagar
 - (1) slave woman: son, Ishmael
 - (2) represents covenant from Mt. Sinai
 - (3) corresponds to the city of Jerusalem
 - (4) she is in slavery with her children
 - (5) Ishmael, born in the ordinary way, persecuted Isaac, the son born by the power of the Spirit
 - (6) get rid of the slave woman and her son
 - (7) we are not children of the slave woman
 - b. Sarah
 - (1) free woman: son, Isaac
 - (2) represents covenant from Jerusalem above
 - (3) corresponds to heaven
 - (4) she, our mother, is free
 - (5) Isaac was born of promise
 - (6) enjoy the inheritance of the free woman and her son
 - (7) we are children of the free woman

IV. Christians Are To Live In Freedom And Love Through The Power Of The Spirit 5:1 - 6:10

A. Our Freedom in Christ 5:1-15

1. Do not give up your freedom in Christ to legalism 5:1-6
 - a. Circumcision will make Christ of no value to you
 - b. You will be obligated to keep the whole law
 - c. You will be separated from Christ; fallen from grace
 - d. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love

2. Concerning those who would take away your freedom 5:7-12
 - a. They cut in on your race
 - b. They are like yeast
 - c. They have thrown you into confusion
 - d. I wish they would “cut themselves off”

3. Do not give up your freedom in Christ to hedonism 5:13-15
 - a. Do not use your freedom in Christ to indulge the sinful nature
 - b. Serve one another in love

B. Walk in the Spirit 5:16-25

1. The conflict of the Spirit and the sinful nature 5:16-18
 - a. The Spirit and the sinful nature have conflicting desires
 - b. Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature
 - c. Live by the Spirit and you are not under the law

2. The works of the sinful nature vs. the fruit of the Spirit 5:19-23
 - a. The works of the sinful nature
 - (1) sexual immorality, uncleanness, lewdness
 - (2) idolatry, sorcery
 - (3) hatred, discord, jealousies, fits of rage, dissensions, selfish ambition, factions and envy
 - (4) drunkenness, orgies and the like
 - b. The fruit of the Spirit
 - (1) love, joy, peace
 - (2) patience, kindness, goodness
 - (3) faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
3. Those who belong to Christ 5:24,25
 - a. Crucify the sinful nature
 - b. Live by the Spirit
 - c. Walk in the Spirit

Transition Verse: 5:26

C. Mutual and Individual Responsibilities 6:1-10

1. Mutual responsibilities
 - a. Gently restore the erring brother
 - b. Carry each others burdens
 - c. Financially support teachers of God's Word
 - d. Continue in doing good

2. Individual responsibilities
 - a. Watch yourself when restoring a brother
 - b. Do not compare yourself in pride to others
 - c. Carry your own load
 - d. Do not be deceived, you will reap what you sow

V. Closing 6:11-18

A. The False Teachers

1. Want to make a good impression outwardly
2. Want to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ
3. Want to boast in your flesh, but do not obey the law

B. Paul

1. I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. I bear on my body the marks of Jesus

C. Final Truth Statement: Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation

D. Peace and Mercy to all who follow this rule, even the Israel of God